



District School Board
of Taylor County, Florida

318 North Clark Street
Perry, FL 32347

Phone: 850.838.2500
Fax: 850.838.2501
www.taylor.k12.fl.us

Superintendent
Oscar M. Howard, Jr.

Board Members

Mark Southerland
Residence Area One

Brenda H. Carlton
Residence Area Two

Darrell Whiddon
Residence Area Three

Danny Lundy
Residence Area Four

Kenneth R. Dennis
Residence Area Five

September 16, 2008

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

The Taylor County School District strongly supports the proposal to add "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the E-Rate program.

Of critical importance in the success of students is effective communication between them, their parents, and school personnel. Telephone broadcast messaging systems provide a much more efficient means of reaching parents than sending home notes or having to personally call each parent individually.

Our district is a rural one with very limited financial resources, and we strongly rely on our system to free personnel to spend time on other matters. We regularly use it to reach out to parents, making them aware of school and district events. We also use it to notify parents of absent or truant students, thus improving attendance. Additionally, we use it to quickly contact parents and emergency personnel in the event of a crisis situation or unexpected school closing.

The system we currently use was funded largely by a grant. We hope to continue using it after the grant ends, but it's questionable whether we will be able to afford to. The E-Rate program has had a wonderful impact on our district, allowing us access to technology that we never would have been able to afford without it. Telephone broadcast messaging systems are a new and crucial tool for communication, and should be included in E-Rate's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

Oscar M. Howard, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools